

**APPENDIX A**

**Claims Marked to Show Changes**

1. (Amended) A method for classifying [stocks] assets into business sectors, said method comprising:

(a) calculating, for each of plural exogenous variables, a measure of a tendency for a value of [a stock] an asset to change as a result of a change in a data value for said each exogenous variable;

(b) repeating step (a) for each of plural different [stocks] assets; and

(c) grouping said plural different [stocks] assets into plural different sectors based on similarities of said measures of tendency to change.

3. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises:

(a1) processing historical data for value of the [stock] asset and historical data values for said plural exogenous variables to obtain a price formula for estimating the value of the [stock] asset as a function of the exogenous variables; and

(a2) taking a derivative of the price formula to obtain a formula expressing said tendency to change.

8. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of calculating a representative characteristic of [stocks] assets in a specific sector used in step (c).

9. (Amended) A method according to Claim 8, further comprising a step of comparing a characteristic of a specific [stock] asset in said specific sector to the representative characteristic of [stocks] assets in said specific sector.

11. (Amended) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said representative characteristic comprises an average return to [stocks] assets in said specific sector.

14. (Amended) A method according to Claim 13, further comprising a step of tracking a position of a particular [stock] asset over time relative to its assigned sector.

15. (Amended) A method according to Claim 13, further comprising a step of tracking reclassification of a particular [stock] asset from a first sector to a second sector.

17. (Amended) A method according to Claim 16, further comprising steps of:  
calculating plural samples of said measure of tendency to change using said formula for each of said plural different [stocks] assets; and

using said samples in step (c) for grouping said plural different [stocks] assets into said plural different sectors.

18. (Amended) A method according to Claim 17, wherein said measure of tendency to change is calculated in step (a) for each of the plural different [stocks] assets using historical data values for said exogenous variables over a same period of time.

20. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, step (a) comprises a step of processing historical data for value of the [stock] asset and historical data values for said plural exogenous variables to obtain a price formula for estimating the value of the [stock] asset as a function of the exogenous variables.

24. (Amended) An apparatus for classifying [stocks] assets into business sectors, said apparatus comprising:

(a) means for calculating, for each of plural exogenous variables, a measure of a tendency for a value of [a stock] an asset to change as a result of a change in a data value for said each exogenous variable;

(b) means for repeating the calculating performed by means (a) for each of plural different [stocks] assets; and

(c) means for grouping said plural different [stocks] assets into plural different sectors based on similarities of said measures of tendency to change.

25. (Amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable process steps for classifying [stocks] assets into business sectors, said process steps comprising steps to:

(a) calculate, for each of plural exogenous variables, a measure of a tendency for a value of [a stock] an asset to change as a result of a change in a data value for said each exogenous variable;

(b) repeat step (a) for each of plural different [stocks] assets; and

(c) group said plural different [stocks] assets into plural different sectors based on similarities of said measures of tendency to change.